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UNVEILING THE TABLET IN MEMORY OF HEROES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION.
SANGAMON COUNTY COURT HOUSE. OCTOBER 19, 1911

REVOLUTIONARY HEROES HONORED.

BY MRS. E. S. WALKER.

Illinois can claim but few spots famous in the era of the American Revolution; but around the names of old Fort Massac, Kaskaskia and Fort Gage, cluster priceless historic memories. Now that Fort Massac has become the property of the State of Illinois, and has been transformed into a beautiful State Park, the people of the entire State may take pride in its preservation.

To the D. A. R. of Illinois, this old fort becomes a point of more than ordinary interest; it was fitting that they should have been actively engaged in building a Monument there, which stands to-day an object lesson for us and for future generations, a reminder of what George Rogers Clark and his band of faithful followers did for the nation, for Virginia, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, and the whole Northwest.

While not so rich as our Eastern States in Revolutionary war history, at least two-thirds of the counties of the state have the honor of being the last resting place of soldiers of the Revolution.

They came here, these pioneer-patriots, to find new homes in these broad and fertile prairies, coming from all the original colonies, and from Vermont and Kentucky. More than 350 were granted Government pensions, while many more, whose military services are recorded, never applied for pensions.

It will be alike the duty and the privilege of the "State D. A. R. committee of "Historic Places" to recall in honor the names of these Revolutionary patriots, names which otherwise would in time be forgotten.

Some have long slept in undistinguished, unmarked

graves beneath the roots of tangled weeds in country grave yards; others where tottering slabs of slate still mark their last resting place; while other names are perpetuated by stately monuments, erected by the loving thoughtfulness of living descendants.

It matters little to us whether the soldier was a Washington or a Lafayette or one of the rank and file of the "ragged regimentals of Valley Forge," they are entitled to the special care of the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution.

Actuated by this patriotic spirit, the two organizations of Springfield, Ill., on the 19th of October last, the 130th anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, dedicated a Bronze Tablet in memory of 24 men who once lived in Sangamon county, and who rendered efficient service in the war for Independence. The Tablet was placed upon the base of one of the stone columns at the south entrance of the court-house. The exercises were held in the circuit court room of the court-house, a room memorable in the history of Sangamon county.

Col. Charles F. Mills, president of the S. A. R. of Springfield, presided at the meeting introducing the speakers.

PROGRAM.

Invocation—Rev. George C. Dunlop.

Song (Quartet)—America.

Introductory Remarks—Col. Charles F. Mills, President Sons of the American Revolution.

Greetings from the State of Illinois—Hon. Charles S. Deneen, Governor of Illinois.

Greetings from Illinois Daughters of the American Revolution—Mrs. George A. Lawrence, State Regent.

Song—Quartet.

Historical Sketch of the Revolutionary Soldiers buried in Sangamon County—Mrs. Edwin S. Walker.

Song—"Freedom's Sons," words by Mrs. George Clinton Smith. Tune, "Illinois."

Dedicatory Address—Hon. William A. Northcott.

Poem—Mrs. George Clinton Smith.

Presentation of the Tablet to Sangamon County.

Mrs. James H. Paddock, Regent, Springfield Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution.

Unveiling of the Tablet, by Mary Lawrence Radcliff, and
Harold C. George—Descendants of Joel Maxcy, and
Philip Crowder.

Acceptance of the Tablet on behalf of Sangamon County—

B. L. Barber, Esq., Chairman of Board of Supervisors.

Calling the roll of these early patriots whose voices have been silent for more than half a century, there comes from them no answering response, it remains, therefore, for us to speak in their behalf, these men who in their time devoted their lives to laying the foundations of this Republic.

ISAAC BAKER.

A native of Fredericktown, Maryland, served as a fifer during the last two years of the war coming to Illinois in 1828, he settled in Rochester township where he died in 1848, at the age of 96 years.

So thoroughly imbued was he with the spirit of patriotism, that in the Harrison campaign of 1840, at the advanced age of 88 years, yet with the ardor of a lad, he rode through the streets of Springfield in a log cabin drawn by 32 yoke of oxen; the cabin was lined with deer and coon skins, while the barrel of cider with which the campaigners were regaled, spoke eloquently of the apple crop in the forties. Mr. Baker is buried in the Rochester cemetery.

MOSES BROADWELL.

A native of Elizabethtown, New Jersey, born in 1764, entered the army when a mere lad, serving but a limited time near the close of the war, in the 3rd New Jersey regiment, Col. Elias Dayton, enlisting September, 1780.

Mr. Broadwell came to Illinois in 1820, settling near Pleasant Plains, where he died in 1827, and lies buried in Oak Ridge Cemetery.

GEORGE BRYAN.

A native of North Carolina, born in 1758. When quite young, he removed with his parents to Virginia and from there to Kentucky in 1781. Mr. Bryan was not a member of any organized company, he yet rendered service in defending the Fort, which was named in his honor, against an attack by the Indians. The bravery of one of the young maidens exhibited during this attack of the Indians, won the heart of young Bryan, and a wedding followed in the early autumn.

In 1834, Mr. Bryan came to Sangamon county with his children and grand children, dying in 1845, and is buried in the Woodside burying ground.

JOHN BURTON.

Born in Mecklinburg county, Virginia, in 1761, enlisted from that county in 1780, for three months in Capt. Asa Oliver's company, Col. Fleming's regiment, and again in 1781, for three months in Stephen A. Berry's company, Virginia troops. He was at the siege of Yorktown. A pension was granted him in 1833, then a resident of Sangamon county, he died here in 1839, is buried in Chatham township.

ENOS CAMPBELL.

A Scotchman, early espoused the cause of the Colonies, enlisting in New Jersey, serving six years, for which service he was pensioned. After the war he removed to Pennsylvania and from there to Ohio, thence to Sangamon county in 1835, settling in Gardner township. Mr. Campbell lies buried in Salisbury township.

CHRISTIAN CARVER.

A native of Northampton county, Pennsylvania, born in 1759, entered the service in Surrey county, North Carolina, serving three months from August, 1777, in Capt. Henry Smith's company, and again for the same length of time, November, 1777, in Capt. John Crouse's company.

Mr. Carver removed to Sangamon county where he died and is buried in Clear Lake township. His widow, a second wife, received a pension at his death.

MICHAEL CLIFFORD.

Born in New Jersey in 1759, enlisted in North Carolina in 1775, serving to the close of the war, was attached to Capt. John Johnson's company in Col. Locke's regiment, was in the battle of Pedee river, and the expedition against the Cherokees in Tennessee. After his death in Sangamon county, Illinois, in 1835, his widow was allowed his pension.

PHILIP CROWDER.

Born near Petersburg, Virginia, in 1759, was a true patriot. An elder brother was drafted for the service, but as he had a family, Philip volunteered to serve in his place. Mr. Crowder was present at the surrender of Cornwallis. He was pensioned while living in Sangamon county in 1833, he died in 1844, and is buried in a family burying ground west of the city.

JAMES DINGMAN.

Born in Northampton county, Pennsylvania, in 1758, entered the service there in 1778, in Captain John Van Etten's fourth company, Col. Jacob Stroud's Regiment, sixth battalion.

Near Riverton in Sangamon county, in a family burying ground, rises a marble shaft which marks his last resting place, bearing the following inscription: "James Dingman died September 3rd, 1836, aged 79 years, 11 months and 3 days; a Revolutionary patriot who fought the battles of this country without reward save a consciousness of duty well done."

ROBERT FISK.

Was one among those who heard the tocsin of the American Revolution sounded April 19, 1775, at Lexington, Mass., his place of residence.

Serving as a minute man, he later enlisted for the entire war, was a sergeant in Capt. Joshua Walker's company, David Green's regiment. He was given 200 acres of land, a sum of money, and was granted a pension while a resident of Sangamon county.

JAMES HAGGARD.

Was born in Albemarle county, Virginia, 1757. He enlisted from that county in 1780, and again in 1781, in Col. Lindsey's regiment, Capt. John Henderson's company. A pension was granted him while living in Sangamon county, he died here in 1843, and is buried in Gardner township.

EZEKIEL HARRISON.

The son of Thomas, the founder of Harrisonburg, Virginia, was an active soldier in the Virginia line of troops, was wounded at the battle of Point Pleasant; coming to Illinois with his wife, three sons and one daughter in 1822, he settled in Cartwright township where he resided till his death in 1836, is buried on the farm where he settled.

JOHN LOCKRIDGE.

A native of Augusta county, Virginia, early enlisted in the service, was in many battles, principally Guilford Court House, and the Cowpens. In 1835, he came to Sangamon county with four sons and four daughters, settling in Ball township, where he died in 1848, aged 87 years.

THOMAS MASSIE.

Born 1759, in Albermarle county, Virginia, where he entered the service, drawing a pension near the close of his life. After the close of the war he removed to Kentucky, and from there came to Sangamon county, Illinois, settling in Curran township, where he died in 1835, is buried in the Salem burying ground in Curran.

JOEL MAXCY.

Another son of Virginia, born in Rockingham county,

in 1761, was in the Virginia line of troops, was in the battle of Guilford Court House. His memory of distinguished officers and events was clear.

Mr. Maxcy removed to Kentucky, and from there to Sangamon county, Illinois, where he died in 1844, aged 83 years. A government marker is placed at his grave in the old Salem burying ground.

PETER MILLINGTON.

A native of far-away Vermont was in the service from that State, accompanying Ethan Allen and Benedict Arnold on their expedition to Quebec, was taken prisoner, but when released, he again enlisted in Captain William Hutchin's company, was made sergeant, then Lieutenant. He came to Ohio, and from there to Sangamon county, settling in Cotton Hill township where he is buried.

ZACHARIAH NANCE.

Enlisted at New Kent county, Virginia, in Col. Harrison's regiment, was in the battles of Monmouth and Stony Point. He applied for a pension while a resident of Sangamon county, in 1833, lived but two years, dying December 22, 1835, aged 75 years.

JOHN OVERSTREET.

Enlisted in the First Virginia Cavalry, when only fifteen years of age, and again in 1777, for three years in the Fourteenth regiment. He was in many battles; Monmouth, Stony Point, Brandywine, and Germantown, re-enlisting, he was at the siege of Yorktown. He endured great hardships at Valley Forge. After the war was ended he removed to Ohio, and from there to Sangamon county, settling in Fancy Creek township, where he died in 1848, was buried with military honors.

WILLIAM PENNY.

Was born in North Carolina in 1751. He was Captain of a Cavalry company, and passed through great privations during the war. He removed to Pope county, Illi-

nois, and from there to Sangamon county, settling on Richland creek, where he died, is buried in the Richland cemetery, Cartwright township.

JOHN PURVINES.

A native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, born in 1763, enlisted in North Carolina, serving three years under Cols. Davis and Wade Hampton, with Capts. James White, William Penny, and — Burns. He was in the battle of Camden and in the last skirmish of the revolution, at Stono Ferry, South Carolina. He was given a pension after residing in Sangamon county, he died in 1833, and is buried in the Richland cemetery, Cartwright township.

WILLIAM RALSTON.

Was a native of Virginia, enlisted there when young, was present at the surrender of Cornwallis; he removed to Kentucky, and in 1828, came to Gardner township, Sangamon county, Illinois. He died in 1835, and is buried in the Morgan cemetery, Gardner township.

THOMAS ROYAL.

Born in Manchester, England, 1758, coming to America, he, with a comrade, enlisted in the war for Independence. The friend was instantly killed in battle and Mr. Royal was wounded in the ankle. At the close of the war, he removed from Virginia to Ohio, and from there to Ball township, Sangamon county, Illinois, where he died in 1834, is buried in the Brunk cemetery, Ball township.

JAMES TURLEY.

Entered the war from Virginia in 1777, in Capt. Thomas Pollard's company, Col. Rumsey's regiment; he again enlisted in 1781, and again for four weeks in Col. Lyon's regiment; he was in the battle of Germantown. A pension was granted him after coming to Sangamon county, Illinois. He died here in 1836, is buried three miles east of Springfield.

JOHN WHITE.

Was in the Pennsylvania line of troops in Capt. Benjamin Loxley's company, he enlisted in 1776, was pensioned while a resident of Sangamon county, Illinois, died here October, 1853, aged 92 years.

There were present at the unveiling ceremony, descendants of more than half the soldiers whose names are engraved upon the Tablet; aged men and women came from long distances to attend the exercises given in honor of their Revolutionary ancestors.